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Letter dated 17 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to address you in my capacity as Chair of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Taking into consideration the Security Council debate held today, 17 October regarding the report of the Peacebuilding Commission, I have the honour to enclose herewith the Non-Aligned Movement's position on this important issue (see annex).

Furthermore, I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rodrigo **Malmierca Díaz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba
Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement

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Annex to the letter dated 17 October 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Position of the Non-Aligned Movement on the First Annual Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

17 October 2007

The Non-Aligned Movement conveys a warm tribute and its appreciation to Ismael Gaspar Martins, the Permanent Representative of Angola, the first Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, for his exemplary leadership and under whose guidance the achievements of the Commission, during the period under review, were accomplished.

As one of the significant outcomes of the 2005 World Summit, the Peacebuilding Commission in its first year has made important strides towards securing the foundation for implementation of its mandate and core functions as the key intergovernmental advisory body of the United Nations specifically designed to assist countries in post-conflict transition.

The completion of its first year in operation and the presentation of its report[a] to the Security Council is a defining moment in the existence of the Commission, and sets the stage for a dedicated institutional mechanism to address the special needs of countries emerging from conflict and which are under its consideration, towards recovery, reintegration and reconstruction leading to sustained economic recovery and development.

The Non-Aligned Movement is particularly pleased with the comprehensive character of the contents of the report, which in our estimation, represents a factual and faithful account of what transpired over the period.

We recognize and appreciate the fact that, as with any new body, significant time in the first months of the Commission was devoted to administrative, organizational and directional issues, as it sought to establish itself and fulfil its mandate with respect to the peacebuilding needs of Burundi and Sierra Leone, the first two countries under its consideration. Despite this, however, some strides were made in relation to the situation on the ground.

The Non-Aligned Movement is also cognizant that increased resources and improved coordination in themselves will not be sufficient to consolidate lasting peace. National ownership of the process must constitute a core principle of any strategy which is developed to lay the groundwork towards sustainable peace.

While acknowledging that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked, the Non-Aligned Movement feels that there is the clear need for the creation of appropriate balance with development, especially in the crucial peacebuilding phase when the provision of immediate post-conflict risk-reduction strategies is fundamental to the process. These strategies are geared towards poverty reduction and include education and training, rural agricultural development, private sector reform and other capacity-building initiatives, including the creation of an

[a] See A/62/137-S/2007/458.

investor friendly climate, all of which lead towards job creation, and by extension, overall improvement in the lives and living conditions of the affected local populations.

The Non-Aligned Movement looks forward to the continuation of the dialogue within the Peacebuilding Commission as we continue to build on the successes of the past months, always mindful that the countries under consideration by the Commission require swift action to implement priority projects as part of the rehabilitation and reconstruction process.

Additionally, the Peacebuilding Commission must continue to identify the means by which funds approved for disbursement by the Peacebuilding Fund reach the recipient countries in the shortest possible time. It is not sufficient to identify the urgency of the need while paying scant regard to or become lax in the critical follow-up actions at the most crucial stage of the process.

The second year of the Commission will demand closer coordination between the Peacebuilding Commission, other United Nations bodies, the Peacebuilding Fund and donor countries and agencies, particularly those on the ground in post-conflict situations, if some of the pitfalls of the recent months are to be avoided.

In this connection, the Non-Aligned Movement sees the work of the working group on lessons learned as having a key role to play in providing possible answers and assisting the Commission to avert the possibilities of unexpected eventualities which could derail the peacebuilding process.

In the same vein, the Non-Aligned Movement supports the development of integrated peacebuilding strategies (IPBS) as an important achievement and useful tool which offers clear pathways for guiding the work of the Commission in Burundi and Sierra Leone. What seems to be missing, however, is the presence of a monitoring and evaluating mechanism to gauge performance and analyse results on the ground. This is a significant component which will, among other things, aid in eliminating duplication and point to areas where greater attention and focus are needed.

The Movement welcomes the commitment of the donor community in the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission, but would wish to caution that the activities of the Peacebuilding Commission should involve all stakeholders and must be executed in a broad comprehensive and participatory context, consistent with its mandate. Decisions regarding the provision of financial resources should therefore be guided by national priorities and based on the collective decision of members of the Peacebuilding Commission. Recommendations for assistance must highlight the priority areas established by the government of the country under review by the Commission. The matter of government guidance should also be front and centre in planning the way forward and will certainly serve to strengthen the process of national ownership.

The Non-Aligned Movement is of the view that with the architecture of the Commission now completed, the Commission's work should now take on another dimension as it responds to the expectations of the international community, particularly those countries emerging from conflict, by producing tangible results on the ground together with more robust activities in the coming months, including the addition of more countries for consideration as they try to consolidate peace and

engineer prosperity. We particularly look forward to assisting other countries shortly.

The Non-Aligned Movement is of the view that we must move quickly to dispel the apparent misconception that because of its different configurations, there is more than one Peacebuilding Commission. In this regard, the Commission should seek to carry out its activities within a more unified and cohesive approach, working in much closer cooperation with the Organizational Committee, which is the main steering body of the Commission.

The Non-Aligned Movement expresses its appreciation to the respective Chairs of country-specific meetings, Johan Løvald and Frank Majoor, of Norway and the Netherlands, respectively, and to Carolyn McAskie and her team from the Peacebuilding Support Office, for their tireless efforts and outstanding contributions during the first year of the Commission.

The Non-Aligned Movement also take this opportunity to welcome and extend best wishes to Japan, the new Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and other incoming members of the new Bureau of the Commission.